

BENTON HARBOR, MICH

A former agent for the Central Intelligence Agency Friday threw his cloak and dagger into the race for the congressional seat now held by U.S. Rep. Mark Siljander, R-Mich.

Daniel Roche, 63, a professor of political science and international relations at Lake Michigan College for the past 13 years, said he worked for the agency from 1951 to 1973.

Roche said he did several tours of duty overseas for the CIA, including: West Germany from 1952 to 1957; Switzerland from 1959 to 1962; Kenya from 1964 to 1967; and Uganda in 1972 and 1973, where he served as station chief during the coup that brought Idi Amin to power.

Kathryn Ridel, a CIA spokeswoman, said she could not confirm or deny Roche's employment with the agency.

Roche, who claims to be the first former agent to run for Congress, is campaigning as a Democrat. The political newcomer said his views are diametrically opposed to those of the incumbent.

Among the issues Roche said he opposes are:

- Federal aid to homeowners threatened by rising waters of Lake Michigan.
- Amendments to the U.S. Constitution to balance the budget or outlaw abortion.

Roche said he favors:

- Cutting spending and raising taxes among the middle-class to balance the federal budget.
- Cutting defense spending.
- At least some nuclear disarmament.
- Reorganizing procurement policies of the government and the military to cut waste, and reducing the size of the federal workforce.

Roche admitted his positions may not be popular with the mostly-conservative constituents of the 4th District, but he said they are realistic.

"They are either going to go with it with me or someone else," he said. "Those things are inevitable. They are going to have to be done."

On farm policy, the ruddy-faced academic said he is unsure what direction the government should follow. He admitted federal policies have been confused in the past, but said "there has been an awful lot of bad management and undercapitalization."

Roche, who has a Ph.D. in U.S. and European history from the University of Colorado, said he hopes to raise \$300,000 for the race.